

City of Alexandria's Top Ten Environmental Accomplishments for 2010

Achievements include implementing enhanced recycling program, making progress towards reducing fine particulate emissions from the Mirant power plant, achieving LEED certification for several new City green buildings, completing the Strawberry Run stream restoration and several renewable energy and green projects completed at Alexandria City Public Schools

The following top ten environmental accomplishments are consistent with the [Environmental Action Plan 2030 \(EAP 2030\)](#) adopted by City Council in 2009, and represent progress made by the City toward becoming a true Eco-City

1. Consistent with the goal of increasing the City's recycling rate in the [EAP 2030](#), the City implemented an enhanced recycling program and completed delivery of 19,000 new larger, [blue recycling containers](#). The new containers will allow residents to recycle more materials with ease and convenience. Initial results are encouraging and show that during the month of November 2010, residents recycled an additional 40 tons of materials, compared to the same period last year.
2. Achieving significant milestones in the fine particulate emission reduction project stipulated under the July 2008 City/ [Mirant Settlement Agreement](#):
 - Completed the Phase I project on fugitive dust emissions reduction and implementing fugitive emissions control measures at the PRGS site.
 - Completed the Phase II engineering study with a recommendation to convert the cold electrostatic precipitator in the three base-load boilers to a pulsed jet fabric filter and to upgrade the control system of the two swing boilers.
3. The City completed several [green buildings](#) that achieved LEED certification:
 - Charles Houston Recreation Center - LEED Gold Certification
 - DASH Administration Facility - LEED Gold Certification
 - Alexandria Station was inaugurated as the first hybrid building (a fire station and affordable housing) built using LEED and Earth Craft development standards.
4. The [first privately funded stream restoration project](#) was completed in Fort Williams Park in Strawberry Run just north of Duke Street between Taft Avenue and Fort Ward Parkway. To meet the storm water management requirements for a neighboring development the developer restored approximately 600 linear feet of stream.
5. The City made progress towards enhancing the transit use within the City including the following [mass transit projects](#) that received necessary grant funding during 2010:

- The City received an \$8.5 million grant in February, 2010 to build an exclusive transit way in the median of Route 1, between Monroe Avenue and East Glebe Street. This will be part of the first dedicated bus rapid transit (BRT) system in the region.
 - The City also received another grant for \$670,000 to build a number of transit improvements in the Van Dorn-Beauregard corridor.
 - The City purchased 5 hybrid trolleys for the King Street Trolley in 2010. DASH is also acquiring 7 new hybrid buses, partially funded with an EPA grant.
6. Since the adoption of the [City's Green Building Policy](#) in April 2009, more than 3 million square feet of development will be certified as green building projects. This is approximately 95% of all development approved by the City Council. Four smaller projects, although not obtaining the certification, have agreed to incorporate green features into their developments. In addition, the Old and Historic District and Parker Gray Boards of Architectural Review approved a Modern and Sustainable Materials for Historic Buildings policy that encourages and facilitates incorporating green practices in the two local historic districts
7. Several successful environmental education and outreach events took place in 2010 involving several thousand Alexandria residents. These events included the [Alexandria Earth Day](#), [stream clean ups](#), [rain barrel workshops](#), tree planting and invasive plant removals. In addition, the first [Eco-Friendly Restaurant Expo](#) held in September presented information on greener restaurant practices in the areas of energy, solid waste, water and waste water and other green practices. The [City planted 550 trees throughout City streets and parkland](#). The City's spring and fall tree sales sold more than 250 trees this year.
8. The City's environmental efforts were recognized widely by several outside organizations:
- For the third time as in many years, the City received the highest certification by the [Virginia Municipal League's Go Green Government Challenge](#), the Platinum level, for its sustained and innovative environmental efforts under the comprehensive Eco-City Alexandria initiative.
 - The City received the [Climate Protection Milestone Award from ICLEI](#) for completing a greenhouse gas emissions inventory and setting sustainability improvement goals.
 - The City also received an Honorable Mention Citation from the US Conference of Mayors in its [2010 City Livability Award Competition](#) for cities with populations greater than 100,000.
 - The City was recognized by the [US EPA Green Power Partnership](#) for purchase of 4.1% of electricity needs from renewable wind energy to supply City Hall and the Charles Houston Recreation Center.

9. The [Alexandria City Public Schools \(ACPS\)](#) completed several renewable energy and green projects at several schools during 2010. As a result, although ACPS has increased its foot print and number of students, yet it managed to reduce carbon footprint and energy costs system-wide by 19%.
- [Minnie Howard's](#) renewable energy HVAC system is now online resulting in a 39% drop in energy costs.
 - John Adams is underway with a sustainable remodel and expansion with LEED Silver projected.
 - [James K. Polk](#) is underway with 5 forms of renewable on-site energy and is projected for LEED Gold. It has the first ground to air heat exchange commercial system in North America.
 - The [City collaborated with ACPS to complete the green roof and monitoring camera at Cora Kelly School](#) to reduce energy consumption and stormwater generation, improve water quality, as well as serve as an educational tool for the understanding of the water cycle and stormwater management. Congressman Moran's office aided the City in gaining these funds through a State and Tribal Assistance Grant.
 - [Greenovation](#) and [environmental stewardship](#) is now part of the educational culture at every school.
 - Commercial [food composting is now available at all ACPS facilities](#).
 - Recycling rates have doubled in the past year at each school.
10. The City acquired one property in 2010 (600 N. Henry Street). This 1/2 acre site is critical to the open space framework within the Braddock Small Area Plan. We also continue to move forward with improving recently acquired properties as usable [public open space/parks](#); E. Del Ray, S. Early Street, 3550 Commonwealth Ave., and Mount Vernon Ave. open spaces.

For more information on the City's environmental accomplishments or information on the [Eco-City Alexandria initiative](#), visit the Alexandriava.gov/Environment website or contact the Office of Environmental Quality at (703) 746-4076.